Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

1840.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was held at the Masonic Temple, Boston, Tuesday evening, September 8th, A. D. 1840.

PRESENT:

M.E. SIMON W. ROBINSON,	Grand High Priest.
E. JOHN B. HAMMATT,	Deputy Grand High Priest.
" ELIJAH ATHERTON,	Grand King.
" ENOCH HOBART,	Grand Scribe.
" ABRAHAM A. DAME,	Grand Treasurer.
" SAMUEL HOWE,	Grand Secretary.
Comp. JOHN R. BRADFORD,	Grand Marshal.
" ELIAS HASKELL, " THOMAS WATERMAN,	Committee of Finance.
" CHAS. W. MOORE, " SAMUEL WALES,	Committee of Charity.
" ROBERT KEITH,	Grand Lecturer.
" NOAH D. HASKELL, " ANSEL CAPEN,	Grand Stewards.
" JOSIAH BALDWIN,	Grand Tyler.

Members.

Comp. JOHN J. LORING, Comp. ROBERT LASH,
" Rev. PAUL DEAN, " CALEB BUTLER,
Comp. EDWARD A. RAYMOND.

Visiters.

Comp. EDWIN BARNES, Comp. PETER BRIGHAM,
Comp. CHARLES WILLIAMS.

The following Chapters were represented, viz:

Saint Andrew's,	by RUEL BAKER, High Priest.
" "	C. W. MOORE, King.
" "	HUGH H. TUTTLE, Scribe.
Mount Zion,	ANSEL CAPEN, High Priest.
Adoniram,	SAM'L CASWELL, Jr., High Priest.
"	JOHN HOWARD, proxy for J. L. Porter, Scribe.
Sutton,	JONAS L. SIBLEY, High Priest.

The Grand Chapter was opened in due form.

The records of the last meeting read and approved.

The Committee on King Cyrus, Adoniram, and Sutton Chapters, submitted the following report, viz:

GRAND CHAPTER, Sept. 8th, 1840.

The Council, pursuant to instructions given at the last meeting of this Grand Chapter, have called upon the following Subordinate Chapters, viz: Concord Chapter at Concord, King Cyrus Chapter at Newburyport, Adoniram Chapter at Taunton, and Sutton Chapter at Sutton.

A letter was addressed to Comp. Whiting of Concord, who with commendable promptitude, replied that all the effects of Concord Chapter were subject to our order, and the Committee have the satisfaction to state that *every article* has been surrendered and is now in the possession of the Grand Chapter.

A correspondence was opened with some of the members of King Cyrus Chapter at Newburyport, and Comp. Hammatt deputed to visit them and ascertain by actual examination their standing and condition. He found them in a wretched condition, their Charter

lost, their meetings discontinued, and not enough of Masonic vitality to warrant a hope that it would ever be resuscitated. He had an interview with Comp. Spofford and one or two others, who promised to make diligent search for the Charter and return it to the Grand Chapter on or before *this* present meeting. This promise, however, like many others, has been neglected or forgotten. The Committee would therefore recommend that the Charter of King Cyrus Chapter be revoked.

Comp. Hammatt, also visited Adoniram Chapter at Taunton. This Chapter, although its stated meetings have been suspended, exhibited some signs of life and with a little attention, may be revived; its dues to the Grand Chapter were paid to Comp. Hammatt, amounting to $24.

Sutton Chapter at Sutton, has been called upon through their High Priest, Comp. Sibley, who stated that the Chapter had work on hand and were desirous that the officers of the Grand Chapter and other companions should be present, and promised to call a meeting of the Chapter and give us timely notice; but for reasons best known to himself, he has neglected to do it. This Chapter has made no returns or paid any of its dues since; but it is believed they will, when called upon. The Committee would therefore recommend that further time be allowed for that purpose.

Your Committee in the prosecution of the business assigned them, have incurred an expense of $17.25.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed, S. W. Robinson, Elijah Atherton, Enoch Hobart, } *Committee.*

The foregoing report having been read, was accepted.

The Grand Secretary reported that he had written to King Solomon's and Washington Chapters for their Charters, but had been unable to obtain them, which report was accepted.

The Committee appointed to consider and report a general rule with regard to the funds and dues from delinquent Chapters, made the following report, viz:

Grand Chapter, Boston, Sept. 8th, 1840.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Grand Chapter, to consider and report what disposition ought to be made of the *funds* of the Subordinate Chapters, whose *Charters* are revoked or surrendered, and to report a general *rule*, which shall be applicable to all the Subordinate Chapters under this jurisdiction, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully ask leave to report.

The Committee were deeply impressed at the outset, with the importance of the subject referred to them; which impression regularly increased at every step during the progress of their investigation. The doctrine which has recently been set up by a few of the Subordinate Chapters, viz: That the control and management of the funds remaining in their treasuries at the time of the surrender of their Charters, belongs exclusively to the members thereof, appears to your Committee to be alike *heretical* and dangerous. By what strange process of reasoning they arrived at this conclusion does not appear; but that it is founded in error, and a misconception of the rights and duties of Subordinate Chapters, is more than probable. The Subordinate Chapters are instituted for certain purposes, and invested with certain powers necessary to their accomplishment. The *Charter* confers upon them all the power and authority they can rightfully exercise. It authorizes them to confer the degrees, and to receive and hold such funds as may lawfully come into their possession, for distribution among the poor and indigent. But it *does not* authorize them to exercise these functions beyond the period of their existence. This *power* does not reside with the members of these Chapters individually, nor is it independent of, but consequent upon, the existence of the Chapter; and consequently cannot survive it; but whenever the Chapter ceases to exist, all the rights and powers it conferred must necessarily be at end. And it seems to your Committee that they

might with equal propriety, claim the right of conferring the degrees, as of controlling its funds, after the termination of its Charter. These rights can only be exercised by Chapters in their corporate capacity, and not by individual masons, however numerous and respectable.

Much stress has been laid upon the fact, that these funds are the legitimate products of these Subordinate Chapters—the fruits of their labors—their lawful earnings, and to do what they *will* with their own, is a law as old as the institution itself. This, to be sure, would be a conclusive argument, if these funds were held in their own right; but when it is considered that these Chapters are the *agents*, or *trustees*, merely, instead of being the rightful owners of the property, the argument wholly fails. They hold the FUNDS, *not in their own right, but in* TRUST, and your Committee are unable to perceive how, or in what way, it can possibly operate a hardship, or furnish just cause of complaint, to remove these funds and give them their proper destination, after this agency or trusteeship shall have been terminated. By the surrender of their Charters, they incapacitate themselves, and cannot lawfully act as agents or trustees; and the appointment of new agents to carry out the benevolent purposes for which the funds were created, seems to be not only a *permitted*, but a *required duty;* and the Grand Chapter, whose province it is to watch over and guard the interest of the institution, cannot hope to escape the imputation of gross negligence, if she fail to perform it.

It has also been contended that, the control and management of these funds should continue with the members after the dissolution of the Chapter, because, say they, "the funds were *here* collected and *here* ought to be disbursed; and likewise they have among them poor and distressed brethren, who need the aid and assistance these funds are intended to afford." If the *claims* of the poor and distressed, to masonic charity, were limited to the particular spot, or geographical district, in which they received their degrees, there would be some plausible grounds for, if not justice in, the measures now contended for. But the transfer of these funds from the treasuries of decayed Chapters, or the hands of irresponsible

agents, (for when the Chapter is dissolved that appointed them, their accountability is at an end,) and placing them in the treasury of the Grand Chapter, cannot, in the least, divert them from their legitimate channel, or bar the *claims* of a solitary individual. Charity may be as promptly and as judiciously dispensed *here* as elsewhere, and the claims of the poor and unfortunate as scrupulously regarded. The Grand Chapter has its Committee on *Charity*, whose duty it is to attend to the claims of the poor, and it would be a reflection upon their moral honesty and integrity, which your Committee are not authorized to make, to insinuate that they have not always and under all circumstances, faithfully performed it. The inconvenience of making application for charity to the Grand Chapter, on account of distance and infrequency of its meetings, is not, in the apprehension of your Committee, so great as has been represented; *and even whatever there is* of inconvenience may be easily obviated, if due regard be had to the convenience of applicants, in the appointment of its Committee on Charity.

Upon a careful examination of the whole subject, your Committee are unable to discover any adequate cause for a departure from the old and established usages of the institution, and are unanimously of opionion, that all the effects, including books, papers, regalia, *funds*, &c., of Subordinate Chapters, should be delivered over to the Grand Chapter, whenever their Charters are terminated; and that the Subordinate Chapters are bound by every consideration, which honor, duty and gratitude can suggest, to conform to these regulations.

In order to accommodate those of our brethren who reside remotely from the city, and are entitled to pecuniary aid, it is also recommended that the Committee on Charity be composed in part of brethren residing in such districts as have complied with the foregoing arrangements, and transferred their funds to the Grand Chapter, whenever it can be done consistently with the true interests and prosperity of the institution.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed, S. W. ROBINSON, JOHN B. HAMMATT, ELIJAH ATHERTON, ENOCH HOBART, } *Committee.*

61

The foregoing report was read and accepted.

The Committee on delinquent Chapters, reported, by reading a letter from Robert F. Parker, addressed to Comp. Charles W. Moore.

On motion of Comp. Moore, it was *Voted*, That the letter and a memorandum be filed with the jewels and regalia returned by Rising Sun Chapter of Nantucket, pledging (as a gratuity, and not as a principle,) the avails of said regalia, should any ever be realized from them, to the payment of a debt of $40, due by said Chapter to Comp. Rob't F. Parker of said Nantucket.

The Committee of Finance made the following report, which was read and accepted.

The Committee of Finance of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, submit their annual report, viz:

The Treasurer had in his hands on settlement of last account, ...	$79 61
And has received from three Chapters, viz: St. Andrew's, Saint Paul's, and Mount Zion, . .	30 00
And has allowed for interest, ...	3 00
Making the sum of	$112 61
He has paid during the past year for sundry expenses of the Grand Chapter, and for which he has exhibited the proper vouchers, ...	82 71
Leaving a balance in his hands of	$29 90

The Grand Treasurer, as usual, declines any compensation for his services.

The Committee have also examined the records of the Grand Secretary, and find them kept in his usual correct manner, and

recommend that the sum of ten dollars be allowed him for his services the past year.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Signed, ELIAS HASKELL, BENJA. J. LEEDS, THOMAS WATERMAN, } *Committee of Finance.*

Grand Chapter, Sept. 8th, 1840.

The Committee on the By-Laws made the following report, which was read and accepted.

The Committee appointed by this Grand Chapter, on the 10th of March last, to examine the By-Laws of the Grand Chapter, and suggest any alterations they may deem expedient, respectfully report:

After due consideration, that it is expedient in the 13th article, 2d line, to strike out the word "*may*" and insert the word "*shall;*" and after the word "*scribe,*" in 3d line, same article, insert, "*or either of them;*" and also to add to said article: "If any Chapter under this jurisdiction shall fail to assemble once in any year, or shall neglect to be represented in this Grand Chapter for two years in succession, or shall fail for two successive years, to make a return of its officers and members and pay its dues to this Grand Chapter, then and in either case of delinquency, the said Chapter shall forfeit, to the use of this Grand Chapter, its Charter, with its records, jewels, regalia and furniture, together with its monetary and all other property, of every description."

In article 14th, your Committee propose to amend by striking out the words beginning with "*except,*" in the 3d line, and ending with the word "*fees*" in the 7th line; the effect of which will be to abolish the gratuitous admission of clergymen.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed, JOHN B. HAMMATT, *Chairman.*

Voted to proceed to the election of officers.

Comps. Jonas L. Sibley, Samuel Caswell, Jr., and Hugh H. Tuttle, were appointed a Committee to collect, sort and count the votes, who subsequently reported the following companions as duly elected to the several offices set against their names, viz:

E. John B. Hammatt,	Grand High Priest.
" Elijah Atherton,	Dep. G. High Priest.
" Enoch Hobart,	Grand King.
" John R. Bradford,	Grand Scribe.
" Abraham A. Dame,	Grand Treasurer.
" Thomas Waterman,	Grand Secretary.

The M.E. Simon W. Robinson then proceeded to qualify and install M.E. John B. Hammatt, into the office of Grand High Priest, for the year ensuing, in due and ancient form. The M.E. Grand High Priest then installed his subordinate officers, as follows, to wit:

E. Elijah Atherton,	Dep. G. High Priest.
" Enoch Hobart,	Grand King.
" John R. Bradford,	Grand Scribe.
" Abraham A. Dame,	Grand Treasurer.
" Thomas Waterman,	Grand Secretary.

by Comp. Charles W. Moore, *proxy*.

The following appointments were then announced from the chair, viz:

Rev. Dr. Ezra Ripley,	
" Sebastian Streeter,	Grand Chaplains.
" E. M. P. Wells,	
Comp. Hugh H. Tuttle,	Grand Marshal.
" Elias Haskell,	
" Robert Keith,	Committee of Finance.
" Simon W. Robinson,	
Comp. Charles W. Moore,	
" John Hews,	
" Samuel Wales,	Committee on Charity.
" Caleb Butler,	
" Robert Keith,	Grand Lecturers.
" Charles W. Moore,	
" Noah D. Haskell,	Grand Stewards.
" Ansel Capen,	
" Josiah Baldwin,	Grand Tyler.

The Grand Marshal, Grand Stewards, and Grand Tyler, were severally installed into their respective offices, by the M.E. Grand High Priest.

Proclamation was then made by the Grand Marshal, that the officers of the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for the year ensuing, had been duly elected and appointed, and regularly installed, and the Grand Chapter duly organized.

Voted, That this Grand Chapter pay its proportion of the disbursements of the Masonic Board of Relief the present year.

Voted, That an abstract of the Proceedings of this Grand Chapter, for the past year, be printed and distributed.

The Charters of the following Chapters have been revoked, viz: King Solomon's, Charlton; Washington, Salem; Thomas, Princeton; Worcester, Worcester; Mount Horeb, Lowell. The following have been surrendered, viz: King Cyrus, Newburyport; King Hiram, Greenwich; Franklin, Greenfield; Rising Sun, Nantucket; Concord, Concord.

Part of a lecture was given on the Mark degree, and the Grand Chapter closed in ancient form.

Attest, THOMAS WATERMAN,
Grand Secretary.

REMARKS:

In presenting the foregoing Abstract to the several Chapters under the jurisdiction, the Grand High Priest directs that the Presiding Officers cause it to be publicly read in their respective Chapters. And he avails himself of the present opportunity to say, he expects that the Council of every Subordinate Chapter will immediately make such arrangements as shall, for the future, secure a representation of their Chapter at the regular communications of the Grand Chapter.

While the Grand High Priest congratulates his companions that the heavy cloud which, for a time, cast a dark and threatening aspect over the Masonic sky, has passed away, and that our institution is fast recovering its wonted activity, and displaying its original beauty and loveliness, he would caution them against being too much elated. He would earnestly impress upon their minds seriously to reflect on the *past*, the *present*, and the *future*. He would have them avoid the errors of the *past*, and in the *present* determine wisely for the *future*. He would admonish them that it is only by a strict observance of the ancient land-marks, and an undeviating adherence to the excellent principles and regulations as set forth in the ancient Constitutions and Rituals of the Order, that we can hope to perpetuate the beloved Institution that has been entrusted to our care. And he would feelingly urge upon every Royal Arch Mason under his jurisdiction, the importance of so conducting himself as a man and a Mason, that his conduct, whether in the Chapter or before the world, shall correspond with his professions and virtuous principles of Freemasonry. In this way shall we put to silence the ignorance of foolish men, and, by the blamelessness of our lives, convince the world of the excellence of our Institution.

STATED MEETING.

A Stated Meeting of the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, was held at the Masonic Temple, Boston, Tuesday evening, 9th of March, 1841.

PRESENT:

M.E. JOHN B. HAMMATT,	Grand High Priest.
E. ENOCH HOBART,	Grand King.
" JOHN R. BRADFORD,	Grand Scribe.
" ABRAHAM A. DAME,	Grand Treasurer.
" THOMAS WATERMAN,	Grand Secretary.
Rev. SEBASTIAN STREETER,	Grand Chaplain.
Comp. HUGH H. TUTTLE,	Grand Marshal.
" ANSEL CAPEN,	Grand Stewards.
" NOAH D. HASKELL,	
" ELIAS HASKELL,	Committee of Finance.
" ROBERT KEITH,	
" S. W. ROBINSON,	
" CHARLES W. MOORE,	Committee on Charity.
" SAMUEL WALES,	
" CALEB BUTLER,	
" JOHN HEWS,	
" ROBERT KEITH,	Grand Lecturers.
" CHARLES W. MOORE,	

Members.

Comp. JOHN J. LORING, Comp. EDW'D A. RAYMOND,
Comp. THOMAS TOLMAN.

The following Chapters were represented, viz:—St. Andrew's, St. John's, Mount Zion, St. Paul's, and Sutton.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form, and the records of the last meeting read and approved.

A letter from Comp. William Woart of Newburyport,

directed to Comp. Purkett, was presented by the M.E. Grand High Priest, and read.

Whereupon it was *Voted*, That the letter and the subject relating thereto, be referred to the Council of this Grand Chapter to consider and report.

Two communications were received from the Massachusetts Convention of High Priests, which were read and referred to the following companions to consider and report thereon, viz: J. R. Bradford, Robert Keith, Wm. Eaton, and Thomas Tolman.

Voted, That this Grand Chapter be represented by one or more of its proper officers at the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, to be holden in the city of New York, in September next, and that a sum not exceeding $25, be appropriated from the funds of this Grand Chapter towards the expense of such delegation.

The Grand Stewards having been directed to make an inventory of the furniture, jewels, and other property belonging to the Grand Chapter, Comp. Haskell made a detailed report thereon, which was read, accepted, and ordered to be placed on file.

A lecture was given on the Mark degree, and the Grand Chapter closed in due form, with a solemn invocation to Deity.

Attest,

THOMAS WATERMAN,
Grand Secretary.